



Dear Parents,

This week I have been firmly focused on the future as there is lots of planning going on, both at home and in school. Here at school my weekly meetings with colleagues are increasingly focused on reviewing progress in our initiatives this year and considering how they will be consolidated in September. Construction of the timetable continues apace and we are recruiting the last few members of teaching staff to join us in the new academic year.

Alongside this is an even bigger piece of strategic work thinking about the future for Channing and our vision for the school in 2035. Over the course of the last few months the Senior Leadership Team and I have been considering the characteristics and attributes of Channing girls, what the world they inhabit might look like in 2035, and how we will adapt to meet their needs and the needs of that future society. It has been a fascinating conversation and one I am looking forward to involving you in at the start of next term, before we publish our 10 year strategy in January 2025, our 140th anniversary.

As part of this work we have been reading widely. I was particularly pleased to share the World Economic Forum's [Future of Jobs report](#) with my team, which provoked some wide-ranging discussions about the attributes successful people will need in the workplaces of the future. It interested me to see that Dr Kathy Weston of Tooled Up had read the same document and wrote in her weekly Wednesday Wisdom blog, published on the last day of the Spring term, about the response it provoked in her.

Parenting is hard work and we spend a lot of time worrying about whether we're doing it right: too much? Too little? With the desired outcome (whatever that might be)? Certainly the imminence of my son's A levels is raising my stress levels in a way that I had not anticipated and finding the balance between being supportive and present but also not interfering/constantly checking on progress is difficult - I was accused of 'acting weirdly' around him earlier this week! Throw in all the other things that parents worry about - friendships, social media, world events - and it can be quite a lot.

That's why I found Kathy's [Wednesday Wisdom](#) so reassuring. It reminded me that there are plenty of tools that I have at my disposal to manage my reactions to the situation and to help my son negotiate what's happening too. I highly recommend it as a useful read and, as Channing is a TooledUp school, you can make use of the content on their website too.

That's not to say that I am not also enjoying being present in the moment. On Monday afternoon I had the joyful task of taking Barbara Stanley, who was Deputy Head here at Channing from 1992-1995, on her first tour of the school for 25 years. We had a wonderful time reminiscing about the changes she could see, the experiences she had when she was here and identifying all the ways in which our school's ethos and values remain the same. It was a real affirmation of the work that we do and reinforced my sense of continuity of Channing's mission over time.

Two sets of student achievements stand out for me this week. Huge congratulations to our two Young Enterprise teams, All About The Bow and Tealightful, for their successes at the North London finals on Monday. They swept the board, winning Best Company, Best Company Runner-

up, Best Presentation and Best Marketing between them, and qualified in style for the next stage as London Finalists. We wish them the best of luck.

Finally I must thank and congratulate our Sixth Form musicians on a stunning concert last night. As our Year 13s performed their swan songs in the Arundel Centre I contemplated once again the sense of completion as the year group reaches the end of their Channing journey and embarks on their next one. It was certainly an emotional moment for a number of the girls and I look forward to seeing Year 13 parents in school next Thursday to help us mark and celebrate the occasion at the Year 13 Leavers' Assembly.

For our Jewish families observing Passover, I hope you managed some joyful family time during your Seder meals and I wish you Chag Pesach sameach. Details of our continuing lunch provision for your daughters are in the first section below.

With best wishes for what I hope will be a slightly warmer and very enjoyable weekend,

Mrs Lindsey Hughes
Headmistress

Notices

Catering for Pupils Observing Passover

Passover this year takes place 22 to 30 April inclusive. We want to ensure we offer the best possible provision for those observing the festival. We know that we have a significant number of Jewish families at Channing and understand that students will observe Passover differently. This brief guidance aims to ensure everyone's needs are catered for in the spirit of our Unitarian ethos of kindness, tolerance and inclusivity.

We cannot provide kosher for Passover meals in the Dining Room, so as we have done in previous years we have again made provision for a separate lunch room to be made available for those who do not wish to eat chametz (leavened food products) during Passover. The designated lunch room is supervised by a member of staff each day.

Students are allowed during the above dates only to bring in their own food for lunch, as long as it meets the following guidelines:

- Under no circumstances are any nuts, or any products containing nuts, to be brought into the school
- The food brought in should remain healthy and nutritious so that students can maintain concentration in their afternoon lessons - no junk food will be allowed
- The food brought in should show consideration for others and for the fact that the room provided is a classroom - please avoid bringing in food with a strong odour
- All food brought in for Passover must be consumed in the designated room - sanctions will be issued for students eating elsewhere
- Students must provide their own cutlery (where needed), and must clean up after themselves each day

If you have any questions about the provision for Passover, please do contact the School Office.



LAMDA Showcase Evenings: Monday 20 – Tuesday 21 May 2024

A warm invitation to the LAMDA Showcase evenings where 64 students present their original interpretations of comic and tragic characters over 2 nights. The students' wonderful creativity and hard work mean the evenings will be highly entertaining. A running order is on the ticket page.

[https://www.channing.co.uk/senior-school/senior-school-](https://www.channing.co.uk/senior-school/senior-school-productions-and-concerts/)

[productions-and-concerts/](https://www.channing.co.uk/senior-school/senior-school-productions-and-concerts/)

Year 13 Leavers' Ball - Saturday 22 June

A reminder to Year 13 parents: please don't forget to buy your leavers' ball tickets!

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/channingseniorschoolchanningassociation/1164897>



Girls Enjoying Success

CHANNING

Sporting News

Congratulations to Sylvie and Emilie L who competed in the Starpower dance competition last weekend. They won first place for their group dance and qualified to compete in the World Dance Championships. Well done Sylvie & Emilie!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award News



49 Year 10s embarked on their Silver DofE practice expedition last weekend. After discovering the North Downs posed slightly more challenge to their navigation skills than Waterlow Park they stepped up to the challenge and became more proficient by the day. They coped valiantly with some extremely cold nights but the sunshine and absence of rain were a blessing. Thank you to all the staff and Sixth formers who helped out on the Saturday and over the weekend, your help and encouragement was invaluable.

Music News

Music at Lunchtime

Last week's show began with a bang with a Gershwin extravaganza by Yutao W in IORM. Yutao played tricky jazzy rhythms in 'The Man I Love' and 'I Got Rhythm' with excellent technique and capability. To contrast, next was an emotional performance by Leahnora TL of 'Make You Feel My Love' by Adele. She performed with amazing vocal control and vibrato that would have made Adele proud, all while accompanying herself! To conclude this week, we had a real treat; Mr Fallon's Live Lounge!!! This group of Year 8, 9 and 10s performed three brilliant songs together - 'Made you Look' by Meghan Trainor, 'Rehab' by Amy Winehouse and 'Can't Take my Eyes off You' by Frankie Valli - all with a brass, rhythm and guitar section, as well as four incredible singers. Their amazing performances even included audience participation and clapping, making for a very enjoyable performance. It even inspired us to create our own Sixth Form Live Lounge, so keep your eyes peeled for announcements at the start of next term. They were the perfect end to the first lunchtime concert of the Summer Term and we are looking forward to some more Live Lounge performances in the coming weeks. Do listen again [HERE](#).



Reviewed by Evie M and Simran T.

English News



Year 7 have begun studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and have started thinking of concepts for their own version of the play. They have to imagine themselves as directors given the task of putting on a new and exciting production of the classic tale. This will culminate in a project, either 2D or 3D, to be displayed at Founders' Day. Last year we had revolving stages, underwater worlds and even a 1970s' roller disco complete with Bottom, in his donkey form, on skates, so our English teachers are very excited to see what Year 7 will come up with this year!

Drama News

This week, Year 11 GCSE Drama students performed extracts from a range of plays for their component 2 examination. Assessed as actors or designers, they interpreted key scenes from plays that covered topics from sibling rivalry to romantic relationships and the pieces spanned decades of playwrights. Pictured here are images from 'Crimes of the Heart' and 'Dusa, Fish, Stas & Vi'.



STEM News

Robotics Club

This week pupils from Year 7 used the colour sensors to make Marty the Robot move in different directions. Using this knowledge, the group planned and created their own football ground for the Robots. Next the pupils formed 2 teams and started coding the robots to play a football match. Next the rules of the game were decided. It was a race to create the code for their football team of Marty Robots. For bonus points the Martys did a cheer in different languages to celebrate the goals.

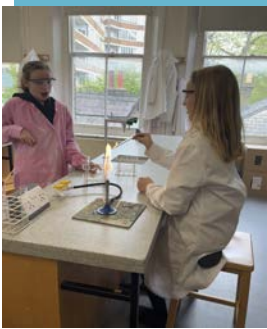


Anatomy Club

This week the Anatomy Club started, for the third and final time this academic year. We dissected a sheep's eye, examining the cornea, iris, lens and retina. Next week we will be dissecting a cow's heart. In addition to the heart, we will be dissecting a frog, mouse, rat and a sheep's brain during the six week course. Where possible, the students will also use microscopes to further inspect the tissue. If anyone would like to attend the anatomy club (or do it again), please sign up via Schoolbase as there are spaces available.



Channing School of Witchcraft and Wizardry



Our budding witches performed some magic tricks this week by making fire and miniature explosions happen out of thin air! They used little magic wands (also known as wooden splints) and were able to relight these, or get them to make a squeaky pop sound, when they put them into tubes containing colourless gases. In reality, these tubes contained oxygen or hydrogen gases and so the apparent magic tricks were actually the chemical tests for these gases. Next week we'll be making potions - do sign up on Schoolbase if you are interested in joining in as there are still places available.

KS3 Science Question of the Week

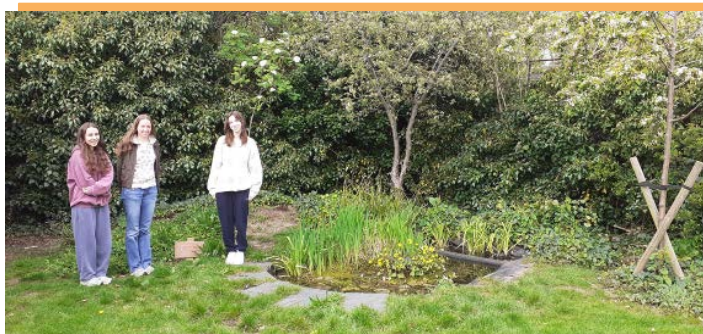
This week for Science question of the week, pupils were asked to think about, research and answer the question 'How big is the Universe?'. This led to a range of very interesting answers from the pupils, but this weeks' winning entry was submitted by Yasmin L who answered the question in great depth and also included some interesting photos too. Well done!

Partnership News

The Spring has been an excellent term of Debating for the Channing and St Aloysius Junior Debating Team. On Friday last week, we marked the end of our work with a final debate on the motion, 'This house would make football clubs pay male and female professional players equal pay'. There was a lively debate, covering the cost for the clubs, whether pay should be proportionate to the player's skills and the degree to which this would bring the sport in line with other industries seeking to close the gender pay gap. It is fantastic to see the progress that the team has made this year and we look forward to our Year 9 members graduating to the Senior team next year. Thank you to all the staff and pupils who have taken part!

Sustainability News

Channing has designated four of its green spaces as nature areas. These are areas with mature trees, wildflowers or ponds which contain newts and frogs. A group of Sixth Formers installed signs last week. This initiative will help to highlight and protect the wildlife we have across the school.

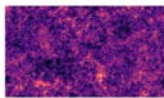



How big is the universe?

How big is the universe? How big? It would depend on what you meant by big. Big in length or width and height?

Scientists know that the universe is overwhelmingly massive, over billions of light-years wide and tall. But we also have what we call the 'observable universe', how far our telescopes and satellites can see. One of the furthest galaxies we've ever recorded was called 'GN-z11'. You can see on the right that the galaxy essentially looks like a dull, red blob. This is because galaxies can 'die' of old age. Galaxies consist of stars, and when a galaxy runs out of the right gases to produce more stars, the already existing stars start to dim and eventually fizzle out. Some of the smaller, but longer-life stars (like red dwarves) get cooler in temperature and also redden, giving old galaxies a red hue. According to the Hubble Space Telescope, from Earth, the light we are receiving from GN-z11 is approximately 32 billion light years away. There are two problems that came with this information. One, since the light is coming from 32 billion light years away, the galaxy might already have completely fizzled out since it's already had such a long time, and by the time we found GN-z11, even the most long living stars could've died. The second problem (being the most confusing one) is that, how could it be possible for GN-z11 to be 32 billion light years away from us when the universe was born only 13.4 billion years ago? The answer to this question shocked many scientists: Universe Expansion. In other words, the universe was expanding at a greater rate than anybody was expecting. If anything, people thought the universe would stop growing and start slowing down or just stop and go back in reverse. This is because of a force or substance scientists call 'dark matter' (on the left). Nobody is sure how it exactly works, as data shows that dark matter is expanding the universe faster than the speed of light, which according to the laws of physics, is impossible. But then again, the universe makes the rules, so therefore it can also break the rules and this is what we see is going on with dark matter. Another theory is that one day, dark matter might switch sides and start pulling the universe back in again into a singularity and start another 'Big Bang'. This is called a 'Big Crunch'.

Going back to before, this was then named the observable universe. Because the universe is expanding, everything we see in our night sky is - in our view - slowly but surely moving away from us because of the pull of the outer edges. So how big the universe really is, we can only imagine.



Young Enterprise News

Congratulations to both of our Young Enterprise teams who swept the board at this week's North London Showcase at the stunning Wells Fargo offices opposite The Shard.

Tealightful won the “**Marketing Award**” and “**Best Company, Runners up**”. **All About The Bow** won “**Best Presentation**” and the coveted “**Best Company**”. Both teams gained “**Finalist**” awards for getting their team to this stage and they now progress on to the North London and Central regional finals on 9 May at Samsung King's Cross.



Their hair bows and teacup-candles will be available to buy later this term at both the **Fair in the Square on 8 June** and at the **Junior School Summer Fair on 9 June**, but these will be your last chances to buy before they cease trading and share out their profits. There are several potential business leaders amongst these 24 amazing young people so this won't be the last you hear from some of them, I am sure.

Follow the teams on their social media and keep up to date with their news:



[All About The Bow Instagram](#)



[Tealightful - Instagram](#)

Mrs R Williams
YE Centre Lead

Channing Archives

Who doesn't enjoy a spot of lunch with friends in nature?

